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PATENT

APPENDIX: PENDING CLAIMS

For convenience, the claims pending in the application are set forth below.

1. (As Filed) A telecommunication network having at least one database of functions for controlling the network, said database comprising at least a data function and a data control function;

characterised in that:

the database is replicated a plurality of times, the database of one of said replicated databases is a primary database, the data control function of which is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of said replicated databases, and at least a second database is a primary standby database, the data control function of which is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of said replicated databases in the event of a failure of said primary database.

2. (As Filed) A network according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of databases are primary standby databases.

3. (Previously Once Amended) A network according to claim 1, wherein databases other than said primary database and said primary standby database are secondary databases and are arranged to signal to said primary and/or said primary standby database when they have been updated in response to the updating signals from said primary or said primary standby database.

4. (As Filed) A method of operating a telecommunication network, in which the network is controlled by at least one database of functions, said database comprising at least a data function and a data control function;

characterised in that:

the database is replicated a plurality of times, and the method comprises:

designating one of said replicated databases as a primary database;
designating at least one other of said replicated databases as a primary standby database;
updating all of said replicated databases on the basis of updating signals from said primary database unless said primary database has failed; and
updating all of said replicated databases on the basis of updating signals from said at least one primary standby database when said primary database has failed.

5. (As Filed) A telecommunications network comprising:
a primary database having at least a data function and a data control function; and
a plurality of secondary databases which are replicas of the primary database, wherein at least one of the secondary databases is a primary standby database;
wherein the data control function of the primary database is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating the secondary databases, and wherein the data control function of the primary standby database is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of the secondary databases in the event of a failure of the primary database.

6. (As Filed) A network according to claim 5, further comprising a plurality of primary standby databases.

7. (As Filed) A network according to claim 5, wherein the secondary databases other than the primary database are arranged to signal to the primary and/or the primary standby database(s) when they have been updated in response to the updating signals from the primary database.

8. (As Filed) A method of operating a telecommunication network, comprising:

providing an initial database having at least a data function and a data control function;

replicating the initial database to form plurality of replicated databases;

designating one of the replicated databases as a primary database;

designating at least one other of the replicated databases as a primary standby database;

updating all of the replicated database on the basis of updating signals received from the primary database unless the primary database has failed; and

updating all of the replicated databases on the basis of updating signals from the at least one primary standby database when the primary database has failed.